Attachment 2: Topeka Regional Irrigation Assessment for the 2006 Crop Year

In accordance with the Loss Adjustment Manual Standards Handbook (FCIC-25010), which directs the Regional Office (RO) to provide a regional assessment to identify areas and water districts where inadequate irrigation water supply is suspected, the following is the assessment from the Topeka RO:

Kansas:

Originally announced on January 11, and continuing through April 11, the following irrigation districts are expected to deliver less than their normal supply. The irrigation districts and their expected delivery amounts along with the percentage of the full supply are as follows:

Irr District	Est. Farm Delivery (Ac. Inches as of 04/11/06)	* % of Normal Supply
Almena	2.5”	50%
Kansas-Bostwick		
Upper Courtland	4.0”	26%
Lower Courtland	6.0”	40%
Kirwin	3.5”	29%
Webster	1.5”	13%

The counties affected by the above allocations are: **Norton, Phillips, Osborne, Republic, Rooks, and Smith.** The crops affected are **Barley, Corn, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans, Oats, and Sunflowers.**

Nebraska:

Southwest and Central and Sheridan County, Nebraska:

The following information was received from the Bureau of Reclamation in McCook, Nebraska. The irrigation districts with estimated water allocations are shown below, with the percent change based on a comparison to a full supply.

Irr District	Est. Farm Delivery (Ac.Inches as of 04/11/2006)	* % of Normal Supply
Mirage Flats	5.5”	79%
Frenchman Valley and H & RW	.5”	13%
Frenchman-Cambridge		
Meeker, Red Willow & Bartley	6.0”	50%
Cambridge Canal	8.0”	67%
Bostwick In Nebraska	** 1.5”	13%

* Based on figures for 2000 Crop Year. Subject to change based on most probable inflows during Insurance period.
** Sold to the State of Nebraska.

Counties affected by the above allocations are **Franklin, Furnas, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Nuckolls, Red Willow, Sheridan, and Webster**.

Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation (CNPPI) and Nebraska Public Power Districts:

The **CNPPI District** that stores water in Lake McConaughy has announced that they will be providing a reduced supply of 8.4 acre-inches to its irrigators. This is down from their normal supply of 18 acre-inches. They indicated they will also have a shorter irrigation season. They will begin the season on June 20th and end on August 29rd. There will be 5 runs instead of the normal 6 runs with half the normal volume per run. The districts feels, however, that by allowing irrigators to transfer surface water shares in conjunction with use of supplemental wells, that most acreage could be properly irrigated. It is important to emphasize that each irrigators water situation could be different depending on the availability of supplemental irrigation sources. **CNPPI** will unlikely be able to supply additional water to the **Paxton-Hershey, Suburban, Keith-Lincoln, Lisco, and Platte Valley Districts** as it does not look as though Lake McConaughy will reach the 800,000 acre/ft level by April 1st of this year. **CNPPI** has agreed to store water from these districts' direct stream flow rights prior to this year's irrigation season for the districts that agree to have them do so.

Nebraska Public Power District has indicated that conditions look favorable to deliver a full supply of water to its irrigators, and will also be able to provide stored water to the **Cozad, 30 Mile, 6 Mile and Orchard-Alfalfa** canals as they have in past years. They have their allotted supply of storage in Lake McConaughy, which is 125,000 acre ft. Assuming normal stream flows, this will be adequate for a full supply of irrigation water. These irrigation districts rely on stored water for only about 1/3 of their irrigation water needs.

Counties affected by the above irrigation districts are **Buffalo, Deuel, Dawson, Garden, Gosper, Phelps, Kearney, and Lincoln**.

Nebraska Panhandle:

Currently the outlook for water supplies for Irrigation Districts with contracts with the Bureau of Reclamation in reservoirs other than Glendo looks good. The storage ownership for these districts is currently at 97% and the predicted runoff is at 117% of normal. Districts with contracts with Glendo Reservoir (Mitchell, Bridgeport and Enterprise) are somewhat uncertain at this time. Their ownership is 38% of normal. They depend a great deal on natural stream flow which is much harder to predict. The timing of the snowmelt will be critical as to the amount of water available.

The Pumpkin Creek Groundwater Management Sub-Area will have the same allocation as last year, which was 14" per acre.

Counties affected include **Banner, Scotts Bluff**, and **Morrill**. The crops affected in **Nebraska** are **Barley, Corn, Dry Beans, Grain Sorghum, Oats, Potatoes, Soybeans, Sugar Beets,** and **Sunflowers.**

Colorado: .

South Platte Basin (Northeast Colorado)

Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) value was reported at +1.3 at the end of February. This SWSI value would indicate that water supplies are slightly above normal. Reservoir storage, the major component in this basin in computing the SWSI value, was 108% of normal as of March 1. Cumulative storage in the major plains reservoirs: Julesburg, North Sterling and Prewitt, is at 89% of capacity. Cumulative storage in the major upper-basin reservoirs: Cheesman, Eleven Mile, Spinney and Antero, is at 86% of capacity. Unless there is a very early call for direct flow uses, it is expected the reservoirs on the plains and the mainstem should fill. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) reported that March 1 snow pack is 103% of normal.

It is anticipated that ground water restrictions will be similar to last year, but maybe slightly less if the above average Index continues.

Arkansas Basin (Southeast Colorado):

Information regarding average and expected water deliveries by canal can be found on the Topeka Regional Office website at: http://www.rma.usda.gov/aboutrma/fields/ks_rso/

The NRCS reported that as of March 1, snow pack is 88% of normal. Storage in Turquoise, Twin Lakes, Pueblo, and John Martin reservoirs total 69% of normal as of March 1. Snowpack in the upper portion of the Basin is above average in contrast to the well below average snowpack in the lower tributaries feeding into the Arkansas River. As a result, canal systems in the eastern portion of the Valley will have the potential for the most severe water shortages unless well above average precipitation is received in coming months.

Rio Grande Basin (The San Luis Valley):

The Rio Grande basin SWSI value of -2.8 indicates that for February the basin water supplies were well below normal. March 1 snow pack is reported at 40% of normal. Storage in Platoro, Rio Grande, and Santa Maria reservoirs totaled 88% as of March 1. NRCS forecasts are now predicting runoff to be 53% of average for the Rio Grande near Del Norte and 53% of average for the Conejos near Mogote. Carryover storage in the basin reservoirs cannot counteract the effects of low runoff for most water users and activities dependent on higher flows. Farmers and ranchers are preparing for a drought year similar to 2002. Ditch diversions will be limited to those with only the most senior priorities and extensive well use will further strain the depleted aquifers.

Gunnison Basin (West Central Colorado):

The Gunnison Basin Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) value of +0.1 at the end of February indicates basin water supplies were near normal. The NRCS reported that March 1 snow pack

was 84% of normal. Storage in Taylor Park, Crawford, and Fruitland reservoirs totaled 111% of normal as of February. If the precipitation patterns do not change, it will be a drought year.

Colorado Basin (Northwest Colorado):

The Colorado Basin had a SWSI value of +2.1, which indicated that, for February, the basin water supplies were above normal. The NRCS reported March 1 snow pack was 115% of normal. Storage in Green Mountain, Ruedi, and Williams Fork reservoirs totaled 116% of normal as of the end of February.

Yampa/White Basin (Northwest Colorado):

The Yampa/White Basin SWSI value of +0.9, indicates, for February, the basin water supplies were slightly above normal. The NRCS reported that March 1 snow pack was 133% of normal. The March 1st runoff forecast prepared by the NRCS for April through July is 114% for the North Platte River near Northgate, 120% for the Yampa River near Maybell, 112% for the Little Snake River near Dixion and 103% for the White River near Meeker.

San Juan/Dolores Basin (Southwest Colorado):

The San Juan/Delores Basin had a SWSI value of -2.3 at the end of February indicating water supplies were well below normal. Snow pack was 45% of normal as of March 1. Storage in McPhee, Valecito and Lemon reservoirs totaled 114% of normal as of the end of February.

The counties most critically affected by potential irrigation water shortages at this time are in the San Juan/Dolores, Rio Grande and Arkansas Basins. They are:

The counties in the San Jaun/Dolores are **Dolores, Montezuma, LaPlata and San Miguel**, **Bent, Crowley, Otero, Prowers, and Pueblo** in the Arkansas River Basin and **Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Rio Grande and Saguache** in the Rio Grande Basin**.**

The counties that could be moderately affected by potential irrigation water shortages at this time are in the South Platte and Gunnison Basins. They are:

The counties in the South Platte are **Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Larimer, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld, and Yuma, and Delta, Montrose and Mesa** in the Gunnison Basin.

The crops affected in Colorado are **Apples, Peaches, Barley, Corn, Sweet Corn, Dry Beans, Grain Sorghum, Grapes, Oats, Onions, Potatoes, Soybeans, Sorghum Silage, Sugar Beets, Sunflowers, and Wheat.**

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact our office.

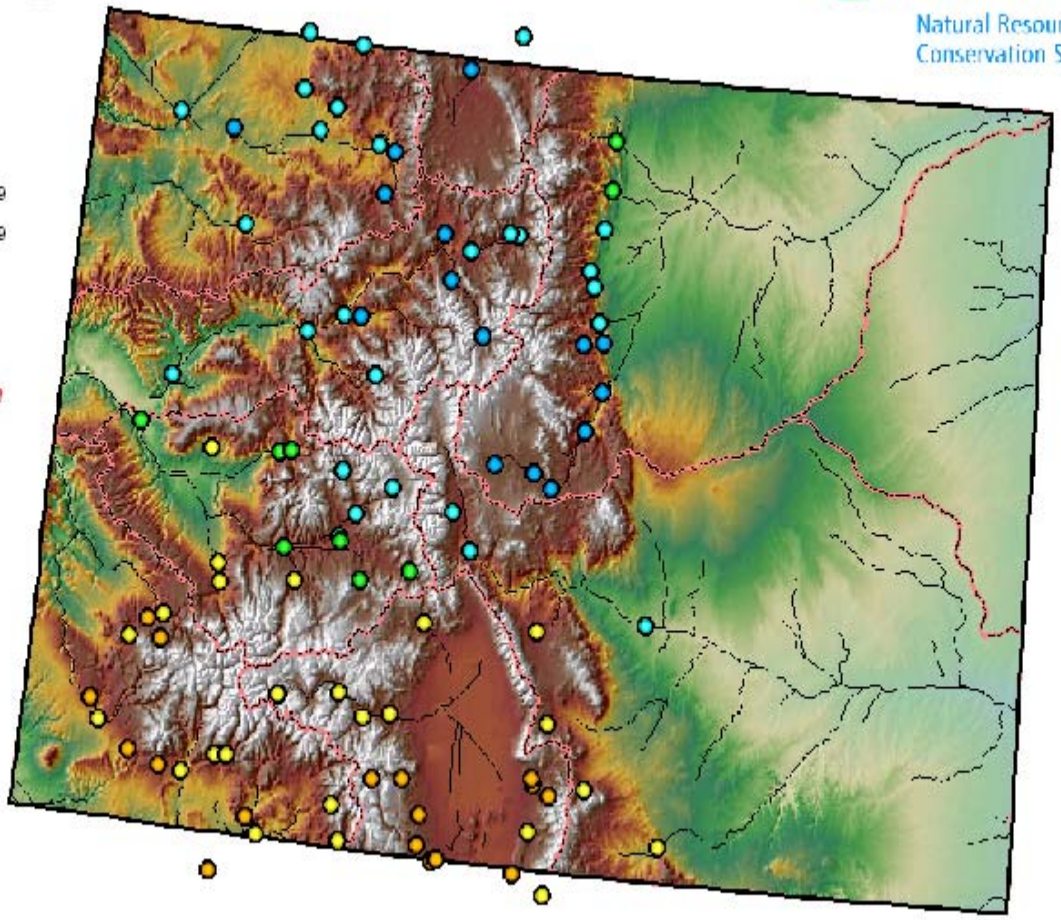
Colorado Streamflow Forecast Point Map

NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Percent of Average

- < 50
- 50 - 69
- 70 - 89
- 90 - 109
- 110 - 129
- 130 - 149
- >= 150

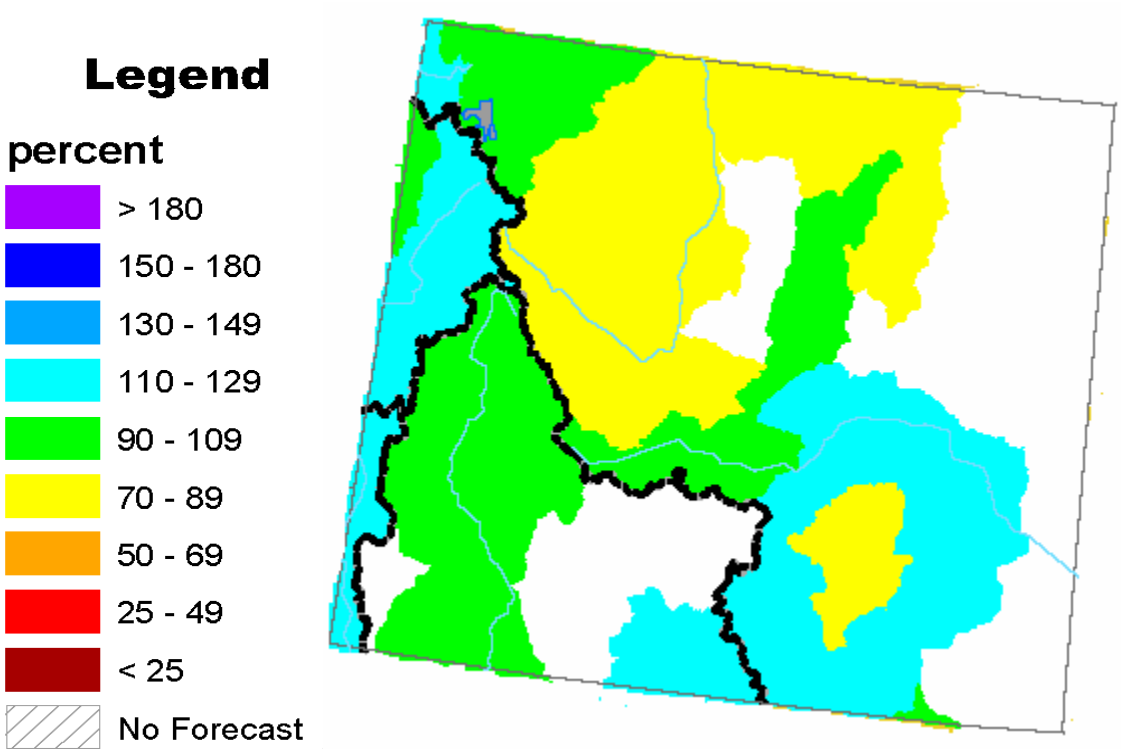
Provisional Data Subject to Revision



Current as of January 1, 2006

Wyoming

Spring and Summer Streamflow Forecasts as of March 1, 2006



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